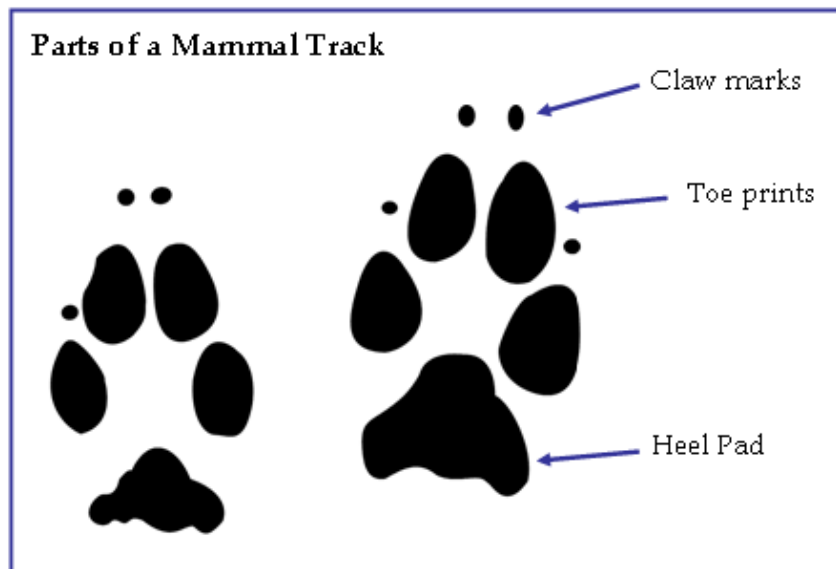


Simplified Key to Common Mammal Tracks

By: Kerry Wixted, MD DNR

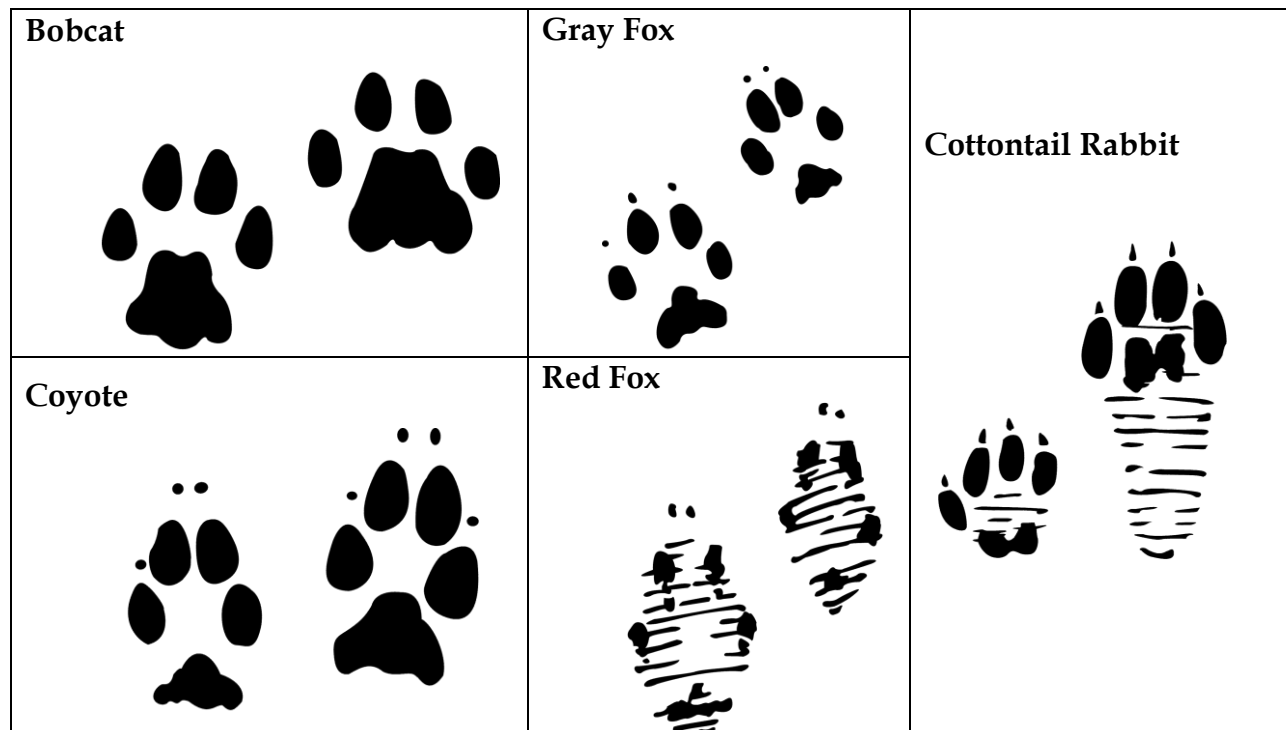
1. Two toes per foot
 - a. **White-tailed Deer**
2. More than 2 toes per foot
 - a. Four toes per foot
 - i. **Go to Section 1: Canids, Felids and Lagomorphs**
 - b. 4-5 toes per foot
 - i. 4 toes in front and 5 toes in back
 1. **Go to Section 2: Rodents**
 - ii. 5 toes per foot
 1. Hind track webbed
 - a. **Go to Section 3: Semi-Aquatic Mammals**
 2. Hind track not webbed
 - a. **Go to Section 4: Other Mammals**



Section 1: Canids, Felids and Lagomorphs

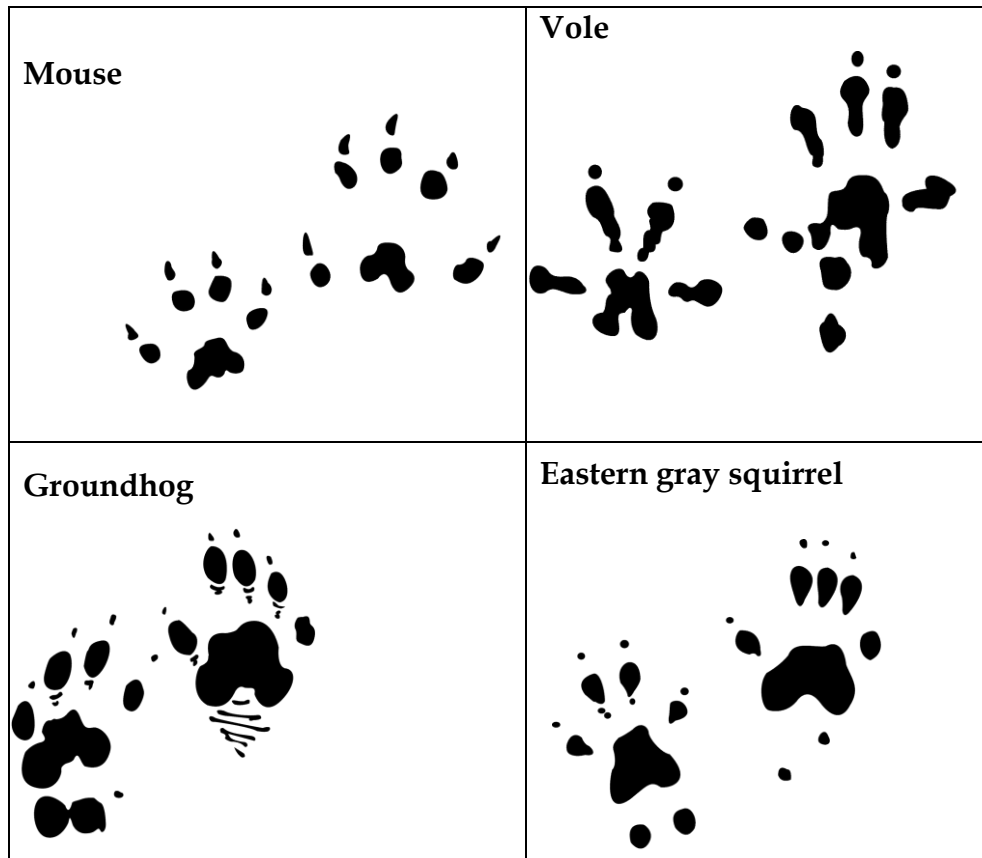
Animals in the Canid (Dog and Fox) and Felid (Cat) families tend to have a diagonal track pattern while those in the Lagomorph (Rabbit and Hare) family have a galloping track pattern.

1. Four toes per foot without visible claw marks; two notches on top of pad
 - a. Foot prints 1" long by 1" wide
 - i. **House cat**
 - b. Foot prints greater than 1" long by 1" wide
 - i. **Bobcat**
2. Four toes per foot with visible claw marks; typically one notch on top of pad
 - a. Front foot larger
 - i. Tracks 1-1.5" long
 1. **Gray Fox**
 - ii. Tracks larger than 1.5" long
 1. Tracks up to 2.5" long and occasionally blurry
 - a. **Red Fox**
 2. Tracks larger than 2.5" long
 - a. Oval track with well defined X-pattern made by pads
 - i. **Coyote**
 - b. Rounded track without X-pattern made by pads
 - i. **Domestic dog**
 - b. Hind foot larger
 - i. **Eastern cottontail rabbit**



Section 2: Rodents

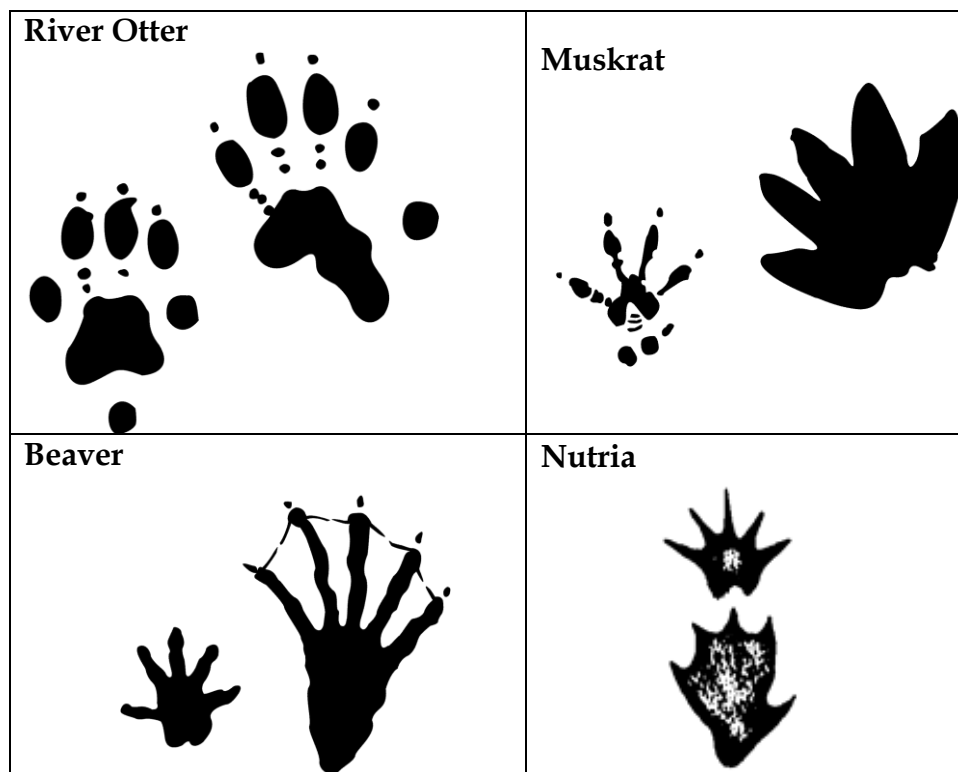
1. Tracks less than 0.5" long by 0.5" wide
 - a. Tail mark often seen running in between tracks
 - i. **Mouse**
 - b. Tail mark absent between tracks
 - ii. **Vole**
2. Tracks greater than 0.5" long by 0.5" wide
 - a. Front foot greater than 2" long
 - i. **Groundhog**
 - b. Front foot less than 2" long
 - i. **Eastern gray squirrel**



Section 3: Semi-aquatic Mammals

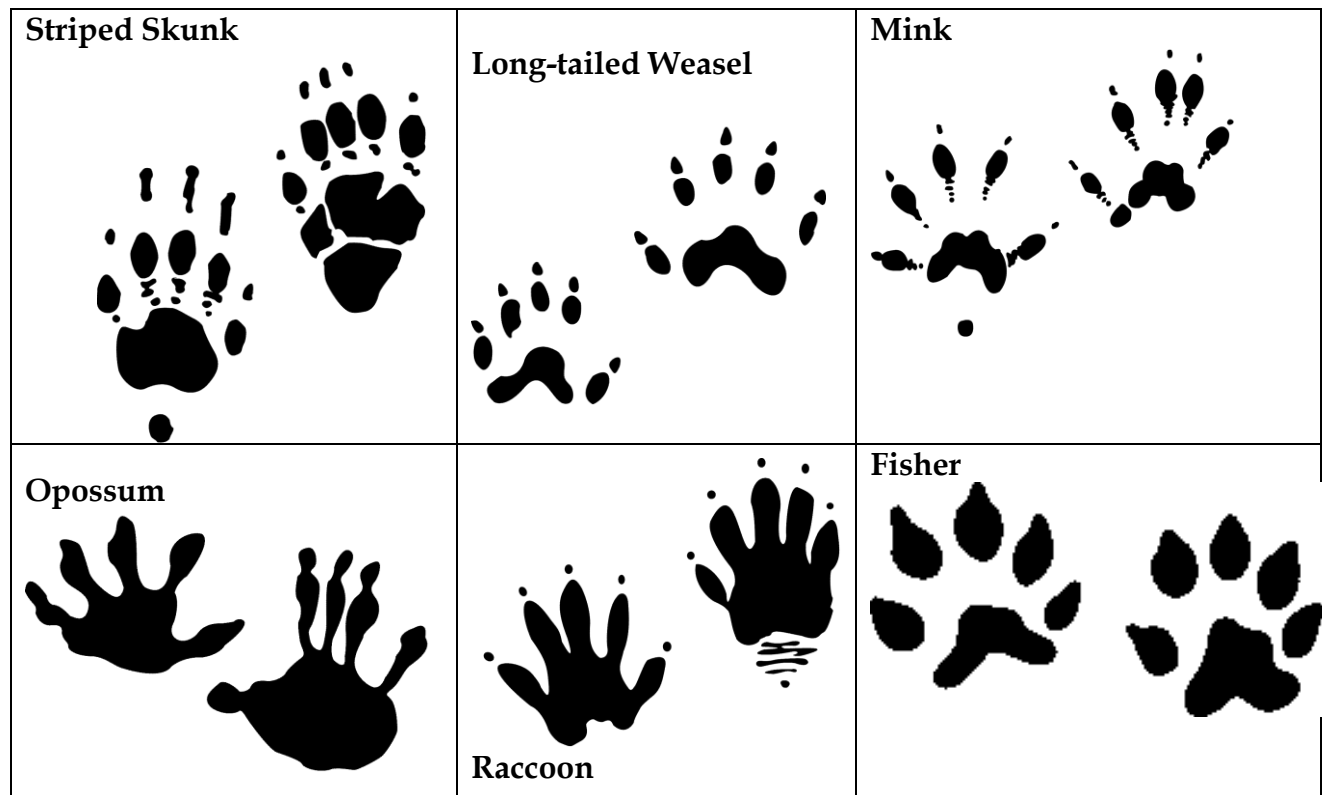
Semi-aquatic mammals are adapted to living in and around water, so their feet tend to be webbed to aid with swimming. Semi-aquatic rodents like muskrats, nutria and beavers tend to have a pacing track pattern while weasels like the river otter have a bounding track pattern.

1. Hind track nearly as wide as long; tracks appear webbed
 - a. **River Otter**
2. Hind tracks clearly longer than wide
 - a. Hind tracks 2.5-3.2" long, often drag mark from tail by prints
 - i. **Muskrat**
 - b. Hind tracks larger than 5" long
 - i. Hind track with 5 webbed toes
 1. **Beaver**
 - ii. Hind track with 4 webbed toes and one, smaller toe on side
 1. **Nutria**



Section 4: Other Mammals

1. Claws clearly visible on front prints and less so (or not at all) on hind prints
 - a. **Striped skunk**
2. Claws clearly visible on both front and hind prints
 - a. Front print 1-1.6" wide
 - i. Front print less than 1" wide
 1. **Long-tailed weasel**
 - ii. Front print 1.2-1.6" wide
 1. **Mink**
 - b. Front print greater than 1.6" wide
 - i. Toes finger-like
 1. Hind print with "thumb" angled away from other toes
 - a. **Opossum**
 2. Hind print not as above
 - a. **Raccoon**
 - ii. Toes not finger-like
 1. **Fisher**



Martin O'Malley, Governor; Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
www.dnr.maryland.gov